This will help establish a secondary mortgage market.

World Bank Project for Assam

775. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 1961 given in the Rajya Sabha on 10th December, 1998 and state:

(a) whether a project for Assam has been taken up with the World Bank;

(b) if so, the response of the World Bank in this regard; and

(c) the details of the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The Water Supply Scheme of Greater Guwahati and Guwahati Metropolitan Area Storm Drainage Improvement Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 444.61 crores and Rs. 161 crores respectively were taken up with the World Bank for loan assistance.

(b) The World Bank informed that in view of the already sizable pipeline of urban water supply and sanitation/ drainage projects pending for financial assistance over the next few years, it would not be possible to consider the above project proposals of Assam at this stage.

(c) The Government of Assam has been informed of the above position. It is upto the State Government to take further appropriate action in the matter.

† WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS SET FOR WEDNESDAY, THE 3rd MARCH, 1999

Expansion of Neyveli Thermal Power Plant

*101. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any action to expand the Neyveli Thermal Power Plant in Tamil Nadu to produce more power to meet the increasing demand; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has sanctioned Thermal Power Station-I Expansion Project at Neyveli on 12.2.96 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1590.58 crores (Base 3/95). It comprises of two units of 210 MW each and this is expected to be commissioned by 2002.

Preliminary action has been taken on two other Lignite Mine cum Power generation projects by the Government.

Workers above age of employment in CIL

*102. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a large scale bungling in Form - B Register being maintained as per Mining Act, showing therein the date of employment and date of birth of all categories of workers:

(b) whether it is also a fact that a large number of workers above the age of

† The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, the 3rd March, 1999 was cancelled. Answers to Questions put down in the lists for that day were laid on the Table of the House on Thursday, the 4th March, 1999.

retirement are still in employment in the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken to rectify and check this illegal practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply given to (a) above.

IRDP in Assam

*103. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total allocation made against Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) in Assam during last five years, district-wise, amount actually utilised, the number of beneficiaries who received and repaid loans, bank-wise;

(b) the reasons for poor utilisation of funds and the methods devised to improve;

(c) whether the Assam Government has proposed to delink IRDP from bank finances;

(d) if so, the details thereof, including the basis of alternative finance pattern proposed, the benefits to be derived over the existing system; and

(e) the action taken on the proposal and by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) A statement indicating district-wise total allocation, amount utilised and number of beneficiaries who received loans is annexed [*See* Appendix 186, Annexure No. 17] Bank-wise information is monitored by the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC).

(b) The State Government of Assam has reported that reasons for poor utilisation of allocated funds is mainly on account of the recurrence of devastating floods every year, preoccupation of block officials and functionaries with emergent situations such as flood etc., cumbersome procedure in the banks for grant of loans. To improve the situation, simplification of procedure and better co-ordination with financial institutions has been established at State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) and District Level Co-ordination Committee (DLCC).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Assam Government has proposed that when banks are not cooperating, the loans are provided by Panchayats/ SHGs, Farmer's Group, voluntary organisation, SC/ST Boards, Autonomous Councils etc. It is also suggested that when such organisations can not contribute, there should be outright de-linking of subsidy from loan.

(e) The proposal is under consideration of the Ministry.

Racket in poverty alleviation programmes in Bihar

*104. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the massive racket in Bihar's poverty alleviation programmes, as reported in the Hindustan Times of 12th February, 1999;

(b) if so, what steps have been initiated in this regard, in the case of Centrally funded schemes; and

(c) if not, whether Government proposes to take any action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) to (c) Government is aware of the allegations appeared in the Press. The State Government has been requested to enquire into the allegations and furnish a report.